From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech, Presented by the Auto Alliance: Week in Review & What"s Ahead
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By Edward Graham

Week in Review

Russian influence and the midterm elections

- The U.S. Cyber Command is targeting individual Russian operatives in an attempt to stop them from spreading misinformation designed to influence the upcoming midterm elections, according to officials familiar with the operation. The campaign, the first known cyberoperation overseas designed to protect U.S. elections, comes after the Justice Department outlined a strategy of "information warfare" orchestrated by Russian operatives to influence the midterms.

- National Security Adviser John Bolton said in Moscow that he did not believe Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election had an effect

on the outcome and warned Russian officials that interfering in U.S. elections was not worth the effort and did not advance Russian interests.

Russia, China reportedly listen to Trump's iPhone calls

- American intelligence reports say Russian and Chinese spies often eavesdrop on President Donald Trump's personal iPhone calls in order to gather information that can be used to influence U.S. policy, according to current and former U.S. officials. Aides have warned Trump that his three personal iPhones are not secure, but the president has refused to give them up and continues to use them to chat with friends and advisers.

- President Trump pushed back on the report, saying in a tweet that the "story is soooo wrong!"

Saudi Arabia on Twitter

- Saudi Arabia tried to groom a Twitter Inc. employee to spy on the accounts of Saudi dissidents and others, according to five people briefed on the matter, allegedly as part of the kingdom's broad effort to harass critics and spread pro-Saudi messaging on the social media platform. Western officials reportedly warned Twitter in 2015 that one of its employees had grown close to Saudi intelligence operatives, and Twitter eventually fired him in December 2015.

- The website for a Saudi investment conference appeared to be defaced by hackers critical of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and other Saudi officials in the wake of the disappearance and alleged murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The homepage for the conference, dubbed "Davos in the Desert," was replaced with a message calling for Saudi Arabia to be held accountable for "killing its own citizen Jamal Khashoggi and thousands of innocent people in Yemen" before the website was taken offline.

Tech giants release third-quarter earnings

- Amazon.com Inc. reported total sales during the third-quarter increased 29 percent to $56.58 billion, the company's slowest-growing quarter in over a year, despite posting a net profit of $2.88 billion that extended its overall profitability run to more than three years.

- Alphabet Inc. reported a net profit of $9.2 billion during the third quarter, an increase from $6.7 billion during the same period last year, but slower than expected revenue growth, which missed Wall Street estimates for the first time in two years. Alphabet, the parent company of Google, said overall revenue rose 21 percent to $33.74 billion.

- The number of daily users of Snap Inc.'s messaging app fell to 186 million in the third quarter from a high of 191 million in March, the second consecutive quarter of user losses, with more people expected to leave Snapchat during the fourth quarter. Despite the declining user base, revenue rose to $297.7 million and the net loss shrank to $325.1 million.

- Twitter also dealt with a larger-than-expected decline in monthly active users, though revenue and profit during the third quarter exceeded analyst estimates. Quarterly advertising revenue for the social media platform increased 29 percent from a year earlier to $650 million, buoyed in part by interest in online broadcasts from companies including Major League Baseball and Major League Soccer.

- Tesla Inc. turned a record $312 million in profit in the third quarter, the first time the company has done so since late 2016 in a period that Chief Executive Elon Musk called "a truly historic quarter." The electric car company said deliveries of its Model 3 sedan increased to 56,000, overcoming a quarter that saw delays in production, issues with delivery and a federal lawsuit over Musk's tweets.

- AT&T Inc.'s stock fell 8 percent after the company reported a net loss of 359,000 DirecTV satellite subscribers last quarter. AT&T, the second-largest U.S. wireless carrier, spent $50 billion to acquire DirecTV in 2015, but viewers have been abandoning the service's pricey TV packages in favor of cheaper streaming options offered by platforms such as Netflix and Hulu.

Yahoo, Facebook fined over user data failures

- Yahoo agreed to pay $50 million in damages and provide two years of free credit-monitoring services to approximately 200 million users whose personal information was hacked in 2013 and 2014, according to a settlement.

- The United Kingdom's data watchdog fined Facebook the maximum penalty of £500,000 ($645,000) for failing to protect users' personal data from

being illicitly used by political data firm Cambridge Analytica, saying the breach of data protection laws had been "so serious" as to merit the most severe fine possible. The Information Commissioner's Office announced plans in June to fine Facebook under the UK's old privacy laws instead of the European Union's new General Data Protection Regulation policy, which could have resulted in the social media platform being fined up to $1.6 billion over the massive data leak.

- Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook called for a U.S.-wide privacy law during a keynote address at the European Parliament, saying the European Union's tough new data-protection rules were a good strategy to prevent corporate abuse of users' personal information. A similar U.S. law could benefit Apple, which has generally received high marks for its efforts to protect users' privacy, compared to companies like Facebook, Yahoo and Google.

What's Ahead

- The House and Senate are not in session and are not scheduled to return until after the midterms.
- Apple Inc. plans to hold a product announcement Tuesday in Brooklyn, New York, when the tech giant is expected unveil new iPads and Mac computers.
- The Federal Trade Commission is continuing a series of public hearings with a one-day session at the Georgetown University Law Center on Thursday to discuss vertical mergers and antitrust law.
- The next Federal Communications Commission meeting is scheduled for Nov. 15. The agency's tentative agenda includes consideration of multiple items regarding satellites and the deployment of satellite broadband.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

MONDAY

Incompas show	9 a.m.
U.S. Virgin Islands Regional Planning committees meeting	9 a.m.
Georgia Regional Planning committees meeting	10 a.m.

TUESDAY

Incompas show	7:30 a.m.
Virginia Broadband Summit, hosted by NTIA's BroadbandUSA Program and the Center for Innovative Technology	8:30 a.m.
Idaho Regional Planning committees meeting	9 a.m.
New America discussion on the future of the FTC	12 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Incompas show	7:30 a.m.
APCO Emerging Technology Forum	8 a.m.
Internet Innovation Alliance program on telemedicine, including FCC Commissioner Carr	10 a.m.

THURSDAY

APCO Emerging Technology Forum	8 a.m.
FTC hearing on vertical mergers and antitrust	9 a.m.
Georgetown Center for Business and Public Policy event on 5G and healthcare	9:30 a.m.
BakerHostetler webinar on GDPR, the California Consumer Privacy Act and handling breaches	1 p.m.
FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy and Wireline Bureau Telecommunications Access Policy Division teleconference	2 p.m.

for tribal governments on telehealth pilot	
FCBA 29th annual charity auction	6 p.m.

FRIDAY

Economic Club of Florida event with FCC General Council Thomas Johnson	11:15 a.m.
Colorado Regional Planning committees meeting	1 p.m.

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Morning Consult Tech Top Reads

1) Why no one really knows how many jobs automation will replace
Shirin Ghaffary, Recode

2) Amazon Pitches Facial Recognition to Monitor Immigrants
Spencer Soper, Bloomberg

3) Saudis' Image Makers: A Troll Army and a Twitter Insider
Katie Benner et al., The New York Times

4) Amazon Lobbying Reaches Company Record Amid Pentagon Competition
Ben Brody, Bloomberg

5) When Trump Phones Friends, the Chinese and the Russians Listen and Learn
Matthew Rosenberg and Maggie Haberman, The New York Times

6) Apple CEO Condemns 'Data-Industrial Complex'
Sam Schechner and Emre Peker, The Wall Street Journal

7) Uber's Secret Restaurant Empire
Kate Krader, Bloomberg

8) Uber's Top Deal Maker Resigns After Misconduct Allegations Revealed
Greg Bensinger, The Wall Street Journal

9) Scooter companies are moving fast and breaking people, but they say they're not to blame
Elizabeth Lopatto, The Verge

10) Yahoo to pay $50M, other costs for massive security breach
Michael Liedtke, The Associated Press

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